

COUNTY SOCIETIES; IMPORTANT.

A number of matters directly affecting county societies and membership in them and in the State Society, the privileges of Medical Defense, etc., were acted upon by the House of Delegates and referred to the county units for action. Each county unit should take these up as soon as possible and act upon them. The only legislation by the House of Delegates which was not unanimous, was the endorsement of the proposed agreement in regard to the work under the industrial accident law; there were about ten opposing votes on this measure, but it was adopted and referred to the county units for their ratification. Four county societies have already, at the time of writing, met and rescinded resolutions previously passed, and have endorsed the action of the House of Delegates. All county units should act upon these various matters (they will be found in the Minutes of the House of Delegates, published in this issue of the JOURNAL) as soon as possible, that there may be no delay in knowing just where we stand on all of these points. More than ever is it clear that the house of delegates' plan is a good one; a body of from 90 to 100 men representing the whole state can transact the business of the Society more rapidly and more satisfactorily than could the whole mass of the Society. A surprisingly large amount of work was done in a short time and without hitch or friction of any sort.

THANKS TO THE STATE SOCIETY.

The following letter was received a short time ago and was not printed in the last number of the JOURNAL, through an oversight:

"In reference to the case of MacCoy vs. Gage, I wish to hereby express my thanks to the State Society for the malpractice defense accorded me on the cross complaint of Gage, whom I sued for the collection of my bill. At the end of a four days' trial the jury awarded me the full amount sued for. Mr. Morrow's management of the case was efficient and skilful, and my appreciation to the State Society I now tender. Sincerely, Wm. E. MacCoy."

In this action the physician either would not have collected his just bill, if it had not been for the Society, or else he would have had to spend more than the amount he collected in defending the cross-complaint. It is outrageously unjust that such a condition of things should exist and it is very largely because of it that the State Society undertook the work of medical defense and the protection of its members against suits which are nearly always little else than semi-disguised blackmail.

PROFIT OR LOSS.

A newspaper account of the recent meeting of the New York State Medical Society states that their *Journal* is published at a loss of \$4,400 annually. This seems almost incredible, as the *Journal* must have a circulation of at least 8,000 and it is, or should be, a most valuable advertising medium. Our own JOURNAL, as shown by the reports submitted and the auditor's statement, made a net profit of over \$4,100 in 1913 and its circulation is much less than half that of the *New York State Journal*. Proper advertising is a legitimate business and should be made profitable for the publication and for the advertiser; that is the attitude the Council of our Society and the editor of your JOURNAL have always held and it is part of our work to aid our advertisers in every legitimate way in our power. We do not ever print reading notices, but we guarantee the character and reliability of our advertisers and it is the duty of every member to help them and so help his own JOURNAL. The JOURNAL is now earning almost the whole amount of the salary paid the editor and the Society pays only a few hundred dollars toward it. Certainly, if this newspaper statement is correct, there must be something radically wrong with New York to make a loss on a publication that is, or should be, one of the best medical advertising mediums in the East and which ought to pay a handsome profit.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S LIBRARY.

At the Santa Barbara meeting a protest was read, calling attention to an amendment to the Army appropriation bill, which amendment would take the library of the Surgeon-General away from its present quarters and combine it with the Congressional Library and would have almost put a stop to the wonderfully good work that is being done by the machinery provided in the Surgeon-General's Library. The Secretary was instructed to take up this matter by telegram with our representatives in Washington and it is with pleasure that the information contained in the following telegram is now placed before our readers:

"Washington, D. C., May 5, 1914.

"Army bill now law. Senate amendment defeated. Medical library continues its former status.

"(Signed) JULIUS KAHN."